

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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FOL REPEAT MOSCOW 20150 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN LONDON NATO PARIS ROME THE HAGUE BRUSSELS DTD 28 DEC.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 20150

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TAGS: PFOR, PARM, CSCE, UR, EI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF IRISH FONMIN FITZGERALD - DEC 15-20

REF: (A) MOSCOW 20056, (B) MOSCOW 20039, (C) DUBLIN 2690

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET WELCOME OF IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER
FITZGERALD WAS WARM AND CONVERSATIONS WERE CORDIAL AND
SUPERFICIALLY FORTHCOMING, BUT ON BASIC ISSUES, SMALL THOUGH
THEY WERE, SOVIETS WERE UNHELPFUL. AS RESULT IRISH CONSIDER
VISIT GOOD PR EFFORT WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE SOME SLIGHT
EFFECT ON TRADE AND CIVIL AIR MATTERS, BUT IF NOT, NO ONE
WILL BE SURPRISED. END SUMMARY.

2. IRISH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY DAITHI O'CEALLAIGH
(KLON: O'KELLY) BRIEFED EMBOFF ON MAIN POINTS OF
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FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD'S VISIT WHICH CONSISTED
OF TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS AND THREE DAYS OF TORUING IN
SOUTHERN USSR AND LENINGRAD. MEETINS WERE WITH
GROMYKO (TWO SESSIONS LASTING OVER 5 HOURS), PODGORNYY
(ARRANGED WITHOUT IRISH REQUEST) AND FIRST DEPUTY
FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER KUZMIN (IN ABSENCE OF MINISTER

PATOLICHEV). AS REF C POINTS OUT IRISH WERE FLATTERED BY ATTENTION GIVEN FITZGERALD. OF PARTICULAR NOTE WAS EFFORT BY GROMYKO TO BE HOSPITABLE. HE WAS VERY TALKATIVE AND ALMOST DOUBLED LENGTH OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH FITZGERALD, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BUSY RUNNING TO AND FROM AIRPORT TO GREET BREZHNEV'S BIRTHDAY GUESTS AND MEDAL BEARERS. IRISH TOOK PODGORNYY MEETING AS ADDITIONAL ATTEMPT TO MAKE FITZGERALD FEEL WELL RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH SUBSTANCE OF THAT SESSION WAS SLIGHT.

3. NEVERTHELESS GROMYKO'S DOSE OF BLARNEY AND FRIENDLY RECEPTION THROUGHOUT USSR DID NOT PREVENT IRISH FROM NOTING THAT ON MAIN BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, TRADE, THEY GOT LITTLE OF ANY GREAT VALUE. ALSO, IRISH WERE EXPECTING SOVIETS TO RAISE FISHING ISSUE -- FITZGERALD ARRIVED IN MOSCOW DIRECT FROM EC COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS THAT DISCUSSED IT--AND EC-CEMA RELATIONS, BUT NEITHER CAME UP. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL POINTS O'CEALLAIGH MADE AND SUPPLEMENT REPORTING ON MIDDLE EAST AND NUCLEAR NON-FIRST-USE (MOSCOW REFTELS) AND EMBASSY DUBLIN'S FINE VISIT REPORT (REF C).

4. HUMAN RIGHTS: FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS FITZGERALD FELT OBLIGED TO RAISE CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS CASES WITH SOVIETS AND DID SO WITH SOME TREPIDATION AS TO ITS EFFECT ON ATMOSPHERE OF VISIT. TO HIS SURPRISE WHEN HE TOOK GROMYKO ASIDE TO PRESENT HIM WITH LIST OF EIGHT NAMES (AMONG WHICH GEORGIY VINS CASE) GROMYKO ACCEPTED DEMARCHE WITH SMILE AND CALM, CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTER-OF-FACT REPLY THAT HE WOULD HAVE CASES LOOKED AT TO SEE IF SOMETHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT THEM.

5. CSCE: GROMYKO'S MOST NOTEWORTHY REMARKS WERE HARANGUE AGAINST U.S. CSCE MONITORING COMMISSION. HE SAID COMMISSION SHOWED NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF U.S. CONGRESS AND CLAIMED FORD ADMINISTRATION WAS IN SYMPATHY WITH COMMISSION. HE COMPLAINED THAT COMMISSION GOT "POOR INFORMATION" AND THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE OR DEAL WITH IT. NONETHELESS GROMYKO SHOWED AWARENESS OF COMMISSION REPORT AND NOTED THAT IT CONTAINED "MOSTLY" POSITIVE ELEMENTS. ON BELGRADE HE ACKNOWLEDGED POSSIBILITY THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES MAY TRY TO HOLD EAST UP TO CRITICISM AND RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT IF THIS HAPPENED "WE SHALL NOT REMAIN INDEBTED." (O'CEALLAIGH ASSUMED GROMYKO MEANT SOMETHING LIKE "DEFENSIVE" RATHER THAN "INDEBTED.")

6. DISARMAMENT: GROMYKO CLAIMED SOVIET UNION HAD AT LEAST TEN PROPOSITIONS ON TABLE IN VARIOUS FORA AND DECLARED THAT IF ONLY TWO OR THREE PRODUCED RESULTS THIS WOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ARMS CONTROL. HE DREW IRISH ATTENTION SPECIFICALLY TO ENMOD AND NUCLEAR NON-FIRST-USE. SOVIETS TRIED TO ADD SENTENCE TO COMMUNIQUE ON MBFR AND NFU BUT IRISH REFUSED.

7. BILATERAL ISSUES: SOVIETS EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR CULTURAL, MARITIME AND AIR AGREEMENTS WITH IRISH NOW THAT THERE IS ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT (SIGNED ON DEC 16). IRISH HAD NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH CULTURAL AGREEMENT ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, BUT TURNED DOWN MARITIME AGREEMENT AND INDICATED TO GROMYKO AND OTHER SOVIETS THAT AIR AGREEMENT IS STALLED BECAUSE OF SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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UNWILLINGNESS TO BE FORTHCOMING ON TICKET PROCEDURES AND OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO FAR EAST. HENCE, NOTHING WAS DECIDED ON ANY OF THESE MATTERS, ALBEIT GROMYKO AND PODGORNYY WANTED AIR TALKS RESTARTED AND FITZGERALD AGREED TO TALK TO CIVIL AIR OFFICIALS IN DUBLIN ABOUT RESTARTING. TRADE WAS BIG ISSUE FOR IRISH, BUT THEY GOT NO CONCRETE COMMITMENTS FROM THEIR MEETINGS WITH EITHER GROMYKO OR FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER KUZMIN AND, MOST OF BATTLE, THEREFORE, WAS FOUGHT OVER COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE AS REPORTED IN REF C.

8. COMMENT: IN SUM IT LOOKS LIKE SOVIETS WERE DETERMINED THAT FITZGERALD'S TRIP WAS TO BE A SUCCESS AND REFUSED TO LET ANYTHING, EVEN BUSINESS, GET IN THE WAY. JUDGING BY RESULTS, GROMYKO MUST HAVE DECIDED FROM START NOT TO RAISE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND TO PUT BEST GLOSS ON MEETINGS THAT IRISH WOULD PERMIT. HIS ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHE AND FAILURE TO EVEN REPEAT FOR RECORD SOVIET BOILERPLATE ON EC ISSUES BEARS WITNESS TO HIS DETERMINATION. THE IRISH APPEAR TO HAVE SEEN THROUGH IT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS LITTLE THEY COULD DO TO CHANGE THINGS. AS O'CEALLAIGH REMARKED, IRISH HAVE NO ILLUSION THAT REFERENCE TO TRADE WILL PRODUCE QUICK OR SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN OVERALL IMBALANCE. IT SEEMS THAT AT BEST IT PROVIDES FITZGERALD WITH SMALL POLITICAL BLANKET TO THROW OVER ISSUE AT HOME, AND POSSIBLE SOMETHING TO USE AGAINST SOVIETS IN FUTURE IF SITUATION SHOWS ABSOLUTELY NO IMPROVEMENT. EMBASSY DUBLIN'S COMMENT THAT VISIT MUST BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS, AT LEAST FOR SOVIETS, WOULD PROBABLY BE ECHOED WITH SATISFACTION

IN MFA HERE, SINCE SOVIETS GOT SOME GOOD PR AT NO COST
EXCEPT TIME SPENT.

MATLOCK

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